

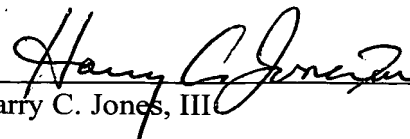
REMARKS

The specification and claims have been amended to conform to U.S. practice.

An action on the merits of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date APRIL 18, 2000

  
Harry C. Jones, III 20,280  
(Reg. No.)

PENNIE & EDMONDS LLP  
1667 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20006  
(202) 496-4400

00340 2296960